

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 00700 041506Z

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8367

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0700

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJ: REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

1. IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION YESTERDAY FONMINISTER BLANCO, IN THANKING ME FOR PROVIDING HIM OVER THE WEEKEND WITH THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH AND RELATED MATERIALS, SAID RATHER GUARDEDLY THAT IT CONTAINED "VERY INTERESTING CONCEPTS". LAST NIGHT, AT A RECEPTION, HE TRIED SEVERAL TIMES TO GET ME ASIDE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION BUT WE WERE FRUSTRATED BY CONSTANT INTERRUPTIONS. I EXPECT HE WILL BE CALLING ME TODAY OR TOMORROW FOR SOME FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS ABLE TO CONVEY THAT PRESIDENT BORDABERRY HAD BEEN GREATLY "DISTURBED" OVER THE CUBA ANGLE OF THE SPEECH. APART FROM THAT, AND WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO GO INTO ANY DETAIL, HE SAID THERE WAS MUCH IN IT WITH WHICH HE, BLANCO, COULD AGREE. HE IS GREATLY LOOKING FORWARD TO AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION WITH YOU DURING OUR INTIMATE GET-TOGETHER THISWEEK. YOU SHOULD, I BELIEVE, BE PREPARED FOR RATHER STRONG VIEWS FROM BLANCO AND THE PRESIDENT ON THE CUBA ISSUE.

2. COMMENT: FOR MY PART, I FOUND IT DISTURBING THAT THE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES MEETING WITH YOU IN YOUR BACKGROUNDER DEVOTED PERHAPS THREE-FOURTHS OF THEIR TIME AND QUESTIONS TO CUBA AND VERY LITTLE TO THE MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF IMPORTANCE IN THE SECRETARY'S ADDRESS. IT SEEMED ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY WERE ATTORNEYS FOR CUBA CROSS-EXAMING YOU.

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SIRACUSA

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Message Attributes

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